



# Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

## Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday Report



Today was the Third Sunday in Lent. The over night low was 38°F, but by sunrise the temperature on Mount Olympus was a lovely 40°F under partly. By the time church ended, the temperature had climbed to 54°F under beautiful clear skies; not bad for February considering we had snow on the ground until Friday. The nice weather brought three people to church.

### *Gathering Song*

Jack Arnold played *Amazing Grace* for the gathering song.

### **Amazing Grace**

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Amazing Grace* is one of Hap's absolute favorites.



### *Propers*

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister or our Deacon Striker.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 128-130, with the Collect first:

### The Third Sunday in Lent.

*The Collect.*

**W**E beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And due to the rubric, the Collect for the Day is followed by the Collect for Ash Wednesday, which is found on Page 124:

### The first day of Lent, commonly called Ash Wednesday.

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be said every day in Lent, after the Collect appointed for the day, until Palm Sunday.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from the Fifth Chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians beginning at the First Verse. He echoes the advice of St. James in his general epistle to be Christians, not just claim to be followers of Christ, when James wrote, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

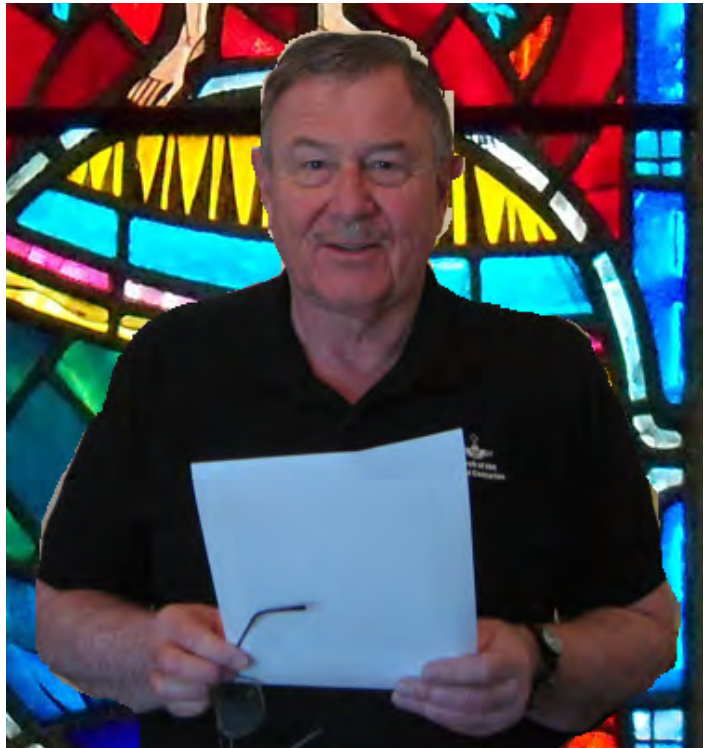
**B**E ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which



are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Hap Arnold read this morning's Gospel which comes from the Eleventh Chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke beginning at the Fourteenth Verse.

**J**ESUS was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your



sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

## *Sermon – Reverend Deacon Jack Arnold - Time and Action*

Today's sermon brought the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.



Consider these words from the Collect:

... look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies ...

In the Collect, we ask God look in to our hearts, see our desire to be His children and defend us against evil.

Today's Epistle and Gospel share the same theme. You must walk the talk.

Thus, when Paul tell us to live our lives as we represent our desires to God, he tells us to make our actions match out stated desires. Actions!

Think about the Gospel.

It is very important to be unified in our worship and mutual support; a team always beats individuals. That is not to take away from individuality, but rather to note that we need to remember whose side we are on and work together with our team mates.

There are two phrases particularly worth remembering, "a house divided against a house falleth" and "He that is

not with me is against me." Middle ground exists, but it is quicksand. Any feeling of safety there is illusory. We must take sides. And, we cannot keep with those who oppose the side we choose. We must decide who we will follow. One man cannot serve two masters, also fits here I find. We cannot say we love and serve one side, but serve another truly. We have to choose which one we are going to love or serve, God or mammon (things of this earth/Satan). We cannot be wishy-washy here, we must take a stand and declare it unto the world, and let them know that we are not for their ways, but we are against their ways.

Christ himself came not to unite the world, but to divide it, father against son. He came to divide, that is that we would choose the opposite side of the world, which for them is mammon, and our side is that of God and righteousness.

You must keep constant vigilance against backsliding, for a fallen Christian is in worse shape than one who was never exposed to The Word. The Epistle and Gospel both talk about the curious dichotomy; you are saved by faith, your faith alone saves you, not what you do; yet if you have faith, you must act on that faith.

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and repent of the sin of your former life, you are forgiven of your sins. But, you must understand, this is not a signal to keep on sinning and keep on saying you repent. You must truly change a new leaf and start on the new course of life with Christ, and not slip back into the old man. You must receive the Word, hear it, and act upon it and spread it joyously to others, in order for your faith to have any meaning at all.

Rather your acceptance of Jesus Christ as your savior and your repentance is the beginning of your life as a New Man in Jesus.

Will you slip? Without doubt. But, when you do, will you again repent and continue to do your best to follow the Word of God, the Light and the Truth? Indeed, if you are a Christian that is what you must do. You are called to believe and act on those beliefs to the best of your ability. If you do not, then prepared as you were for life, you will so be prepared for the pit. As you read Luke, remember the second half of the Book of Luke is The ACTS of the Apostles, not thoughts, wishes, prayers or meditations.

For, "blessed are they that hear the word of God, and **keep it.**"

## ACT

It is by our actions we are known.

**Be of God - Live of God - Act of God**

### *Bishop Ogles' Sermon*

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today's sermon starts off with the collect, and like always, it will give you a lot to consider in your heart.

### **Sermon Notes**

The Third Sunday in Lent  
3 March 2013, Anno Domini

### **The Third Sunday in Lent.**

*The Collect.*

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wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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14 And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. 15 But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. 16 And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. 17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. 18 If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. 19 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. 20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. 21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. 23 He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. 24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. 25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. 26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. 27 And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. 28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. (Luke 11:14-28)

In our Collect today, we learn that the boastful braggart need not appeal to God for defense because he believes that he does not need it. It is the humble in heart who may petition God for their defense, believing that He will grant it, and so shall it be. This is another Gregorian Collect that was composed when the enemies were at the gate. The Church has survived, and the prayer answered. It has a direct bearing on a defense from the spiritual powers of darkness that assail us daily; and it has a relevance to the Gospel text we read today from Luke 11:14-28. If we may consider the world a jungle (and it is definitely so from a spiritual perspective), we pass through that jungle with a thousand hungry eyes watching our every move. At the first stumble (at sin) those eyes are inform vicious claws and teeth to attack. That is the devil's way, and it has not changed an iota since that Old Red Dragon fell from Heaven as lightning. He has never, and WILL never, be anything other than the mortal enemy of your soul. ***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*** (1 Peter 5:8) If it pleases you to sin, just be ready for the devouring lion. As God said to Job from out of the whirlwind (regarding that dragon, Leviathan): ***Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more.*** (Job 41:8) The same is true of Satan – his power is beyond that of man to oppose. Only God can win the battle against such a vicious creature.

We find Jesus in today's text working a miracle of God in casting out a demon. Please remember that demons work for Satan and under his power and direction. They are the fallen angels which the tail of the great Red Dragon drew with him to earth at his fall. Man cannot fight such power as discussed earlier. So we need a power greater than that of the Devil – there is only One – GOD! If a disciple will exorcise a demon, he must do so in the Name (by the power and authority) of Jesus Christ. Satan has all kinds of soldiers, and many of those soldiers are human. Let us observe three stark facts revealed in today's text regarding those who witnessed the good works of Christ.

1) There were many in the multitude that marveled at the works of Christ and freely admitted that only the promised Messiah could perform such miracles. *And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?* (Matt 12:23)

2) Others in the crowd, however, were more casual observers – much like those we see filling the pews of the mainline churches every Sunday. They really did not WANT to believe so they asked for MORE than a miracle in overpowering Satan. **16 And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven.** Those who lack faith always seek a greater sign regardless the miraculous wonders they have already observed. Worship to such people is more a matter of entertainment than of solemn and reverent audience before God.

3) The last group are those who were forever present to find fault with every move Christ made. They are still with us today - **15 But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.** Matthew tells us who those culprits were, in case you have not guessed: **24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.** (Matt 12:24)

Be not deceived, the same people gather about you when you perform good works of love for Christ. You have many, as the villagers of Sychar, who will believe even a woman of ill-repute when she has been touched by Christ. They will hear and believe the testimony you give of how Christ has changed your life (if the evidence bears it out). Others will search for ulterior motives in your action – they will want you to do something that they consider 'impossible.' But Satan's best adherents are those who have a stake in the battle – his adherents. The Pharisees comprise the largest contingent of that group in our text today. Livid with jealousy over their little profit-producing empire of the Temple, they seek every means to undermine Christ. Of course, a favorite tool of the devil is to always begin with a question. Or, they will assign false motives or causes for a miracle.

Let us examine a cardinal charge the Pharisees made against Christ: **15 But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.** This name for the Lord of the Flies derives from an ancient Philistine god. I find it rather amazing that one of our required-reading texts in public schools today is "The Lord of the Flies". Beelzebub is its true name and the Jewish religious leaders used it to refer to Satan himself. It was thought that the fly covered dead bodies and later, miraculously' life emerged from those dead bodies in the form of maggots and, later, flies. What a blasphemy against the Lord of Heaven! But the tactic is still used today when we see, on very rare occasions, an honest politician attempting to honestly address a problem involving the public largesse. He is labeled as one who is trying to starve the poor, murder the elderly, and reap profits for himself. How does Christ address these beleaguering imbeciles?

Though many may believe that Abe Lincoln was very original in his comment – "A house divided against itself cannot stand" he was only plagiarizing (without giving credit) the words of Jesus: **17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. 18 If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub.**

No military general would ever field an army comprised of half loyalists and half

traitors. In the face of battle, every heart must be on the side of the cause else the possibility of victory is reduced commensurate with the numbers of traitors in the ranks. Satan is no fool – he is a cunning old genius. Even if he could do so, he would never allow righteousness in his ranks. This is what Christ represents – the perfect righteousness and power of God. God Himself has already proven that He will not allow evil in His ranks. When it reared its prideful head in Heaven, the rebel was cast out.

How strong do you consider that Finger which scattered the stars and distant galaxies into their places in space? **20 *But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.*** Rarely has that Finger written on earth, but it has written. Can you count the times? Can you tell me how often that Finger has written on clay? Would you believe FIVE times! If you have difficulty finding those five times in the Bible, ask me and I shall tell you. That same Finger has more power than a million and more suns. If we see that Finger defeated the hosts of Hell in casting out demons, do we not recognize that God is Omnipotent and the devil cannot stand against Him?

Who do you consider to be the most powerful politician today? Obama? No, he is only a small tool to that greater politician – his name is Satan. He owns the hearts and minds of more people than all the churches combined. **21. *When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*** Christ calls Satan the "*prince of this world.*" (John 12:31) Christ is the Prince and Lord of Life that does not perish, but the Prince of the world shall suffer as the world that is destroyed. *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:* (Eph 2:2) I hope that you, Listener, are not disobedient before God for, if you are, the just quoted verse tells us that you have the WRONG spirit. We all had our bodily homes kept by a strong man (Satan), but a Stronger Man has come and taken over the premises of our hearts if Christ has made His abode there.

Perhaps we need a house-cleaning, but we ALSO need occupancy! **24 *When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. 25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. 26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.*** Have you ever gone on a strict diet of small servings and no sweets? How did that work out for you? After a grueling few weeks (or days) you are famished! You return to the old diet of heavy foods with a vengeance and wind up doing more damage that the good you did for a time. Before we come to Christ, there is a repulsively wicked spirit in our members. It dominates all we do, think, and say. It is comfortable there in our hearts, but it cares for no good thing. You cannot evict that demon. No other man can evict that demon for you. It must be the Lord Jesus Christ who calls him out just as this text relates. When that wicked spirit is gone out, he will surely return if the One who evicts him is not at home in your heart. Jesus must take the place of the demon. He took the place of the demon in your heart on the cross at Calvary, did He not?

So Christ has answered the henchmen (Pharisees) of Satan in three distinct ways.



This is the same approach we should take when confronted by the evil of error: 1) He argued from the rational and scripturally reasonable point of view. Why would Satan be divided against himself? God and Satan are at opposite ends of the pole. Reason from Scripture is our fortress against error. 2) He argued from the premise of Godly power. Who is greater, God or his creature, Satan? Finally, Christ argued from the point of accomplished results. Is the heart safe in the hands of Christ?

Though not a part of our text today, the following two verses of the text have much bearing here: *29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. 30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.* (Luke 11:29-30) Do not we see men and women of otherwise sound sense running from tent to tent of the modern wonder-workers seeking after a miracle and sign? These fools are promised the wealth of the world if they will only send all of their wealth to the evangelist. But do we need a sign to believe? Has the sign not already been provided? Like Jonah, Christ was in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. He arose from the heart of the earth for you and me. What more do we need to know? Are we not an evil and adulterous generation if there ever was one? Please notice that it is never the God-fearing people who desire a sign, but those opposed to the Kingdom of God: *38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.* (Matt 12:38-40)

### *Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon*

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



#### **The Temple**

Psalm 25, Deuteronomy 6, 1 Corinthians 3  
Third Sunday in Lent  
March 3, 2013

Several "3:16's" in the Bible express significant Biblical truth. The best known is the well beloved John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Probably second, in terms of being well known and well beloved, is 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Most people know these verse, and I suspect and hope that you know them by heart. There is another 3:16, found in our readings for this morning. It is 1 Corinthians 3:16; "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

"Ye are the temple of God." I want to call attention to something that, at first, will seem very obvious, yet, I think is habitually overlooked by most readers of this verse. I want to call attention to the word, "temple," and I want to emphasize that it is singular, not plural. It is "temple," not "temples." Now let me call attention to the word, "ye." Ye is

plural. Old England, like the Old South, had a plural form of "you." "Ye" is that plural form. So Paul was addressing many people, but he said of them that "Ye," plural, are "the temple," singular.

Paul has been writing about the divisions and strife that existed in the Corinthian Church. The Corinthians had a difficult time following Christ. They lived in the time before most of the New Testament had been written, they probably did not have a copy of the Old Testament, and, even if they had, they would not have understood it because they were Gentiles. They were of a culture that was completely alien to the Bible. Theirs was a culture of sensual indulgence. Even their religions were primarily about sensuality and sensual experiences. And everything was all about "Me;" whatever seems right to "Me," and whatever feels good to "Me." In fact, it was a culture very much like our own.

It took a while for those who converted to Christianity to put their pagan ideas, values, and religious views behind them, or even to know they should be put behind them. So their pagan ideas followed them into the Church. This was partly a calculated, intentional thing; and it was partly just because they didn't know any better. When they heard about God they thought of Him the way they thought of pagan idols, and they tried to worship Him as they had worshiped their pagan gods. They made Christianity all about having religious experiences. And they made it all about "Me;" my faith, my beliefs, my salvation, my worship, and my relationship with Jesus. This is the natural tendency of people, and we still see it in the lives and views of Christians today. We're still trying to make Christianity all about experiencing God, my own personal faith, my beliefs, my salvation, my worship, my interpretation of the Bible, and my relationship with Jesus, as though it is only about "Just Jesus and Me."

There is some truth in me-centered religion. A person must have personal faith in Christ. A person must be personally saved, personally read the Bible, personally worship God, and personally walk with Jesus. But me centered religion leaves out the very important fact that individual faith, salvation, worship, understanding of the Bible, and relationship with Christ, are lived and practiced in the context of the wider Body of Christ, which the Bible calls the Church.

In contrast to me-centered religion, the Bible presents a God-centered faith. One of the clearest statements of this is found in Ephesians 1:9 and 10, which tell us the purpose of God is to bring all things together in Christ. God's purpose in building and sustaining this universe, and in sending Christ to the cross, and in sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in the Church, is to bring all things together under the Lordship of Christ. Thanks be to God, Ephesians 1:11 tells us we have an inheritance in Him. We have a share in His Kingdom, "according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will," but we need to remember that the Kingdom is about God and for His glory. It is not about us or our glory.

The Bible also presents a unified Church instead of me-centered individualism. In other words, instead of a highly individualised faith of independent Christians following God as the Spirit leads them, or, more correctly, as they think the Spirit is leading them, the Bible presents a view of a unified people following and serving God together as one person. This is a major part of the teaching of 1 Corinthians 3. The language and intent is a little different from that in Ephesians 1, for, while Ephesians refers to all things in general, 1 Corinthians refers to the Church specifically. But the idea of being brought

together under Christ is found in both passages. 1 Corinthians describes the Church as the temple of God, the place where God dwells. The Church is one, and all the Christians together form the Temple, the Church.

This is not just a nice idea built on an isolated text. It is taught throughout the New Testament and Bible. Deuteronomy 6:4, for example address Israel as one body. "Hear O Israel," not "Hear O Israelites. Look also at 1 Peter 2:5 which says "Ye" (plural) "as lively stones (plural), are built up a (singular) spiritual house," (singular), "an (singular) holy priesthood" (singular). The point is that God is building a spiritual house for Himself, by putting Christians together to form a spiritual home for Himself. Peter does not say God is collecting stones for a rock collection. Some people collect rocks, and they have a story to tell about each rock. God is not collecting rocks, He is building a spiritual house, a Temple for Himself. That Temple is the Church. You and I are stones in it. God gathers us, shapes us, chips off the parts He doesn't want, sticks us into the mortar and we become part of the temple. And in this Temple we become one. We are a unity. We are not just rocks, we are the Temple.

So the Bible teaches a unity of believers. We are one body. We are one building. We are living stones in a living building We are members of one another. We have one Lord, one faith, one baptism. God grant that we may always hold and practice the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

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### *Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon*

We are fortunate to have Bryan's Sunday Sermon. If you want people to come to The Truth, you have to speak the truth, expound the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.



#### **Sermon for Third Sunday in Lent**

As Christians, we know from our study of the scriptures that God has called on all men to receive his free gift of grace (see St. John 3:16). We also know that those who choose to reject his gift of grace are, ...condemned already because [they] hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (St. John 3:18b). And further, while we know that God is love beyond our understanding of that word (St. John 4:8b); he is also holy, just and righteous. And because he is those things, his nature demands that his creation be those things as well.

When God told Abraham, ...I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect (Genesis 17:1b), he was setting forth the standard by which all would be judged of him. Yet being perfect is not something that mankind has the capacity to do under the best of conditions unaided by the Holy Ghost. So we should not be surprised that there is absolutely no hope of pleasing God without a new nature— without being born again. There is but one way to receive God's free gift of salvation, and that is to believe

on the name of Jesus Christ as your Saviour and live in accordance with his word and commandment. If we are living in disobedience then we will suffer the wrath of God.

In the Epistle for today St. Paul admonished, For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye partakers with them (Ephesians 5:5-7). In another epistle he noted that, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them (Romans 1:18-19). It should be clear from these passages that God will punish the wicked, not for their ignorance of him, but on account of their knowledge of him.

Imagine, if you will, that there is a raging fire approaching your town; and while it is some distance away, you can see a smoke cloud rising over its location. So being a good citizen, you pick up the phone and call the local fire department. After looking at the smoke cloud, the fire chief says, "Well, that could be anything from a farmer burning off a field to another citizen burning some trash. We'll just wait and see."

Hours later, you see the cloud drawing closer and you notice that it has expanded, so you take a few pictures of it to show the chief and the town council. They look over the images you took and, without going to see for themselves, they simply take the fire chief's advice, "So-in-so here is just a wee bit excited and overly anxious. It is not a threat." None of them seem interested in taking the time to go and look, nor do they see the danger as reflected in the images you supplied.

Of course, the fire is drawing nearer every moment. You press them to take action, but they treat you as an alarmist. Needless to say, the fire will continue to spread, eventually reaching the town. To rephrase the noted Spanish philosopher, George Santayana, "People never believe in wildfires until the flames actually overtake them." The public officials knew there was a fire. They knew because anyone can look at a smoke cloud and reason that, "where there is smoke, there is flame". They could see from the pictures that there was a fire and that it was pretty large in size. Though they were not ignorant of the fire, they were, however, influenced by a powerful figure to ignore its potential harm.

This has been a reoccurring drama in the story of man regarding his "so- to-speak" ignorance of sin and its principal agent. That is where Satan and his messengers come in. They have sought over the millennia to deceive mankind: to put them in a state of denial concerning the truth of God's word written. In the Old Testament, the Devil convinced the majority of people in Israel to reject the word of the prophets; while in the New Testament, he managed to turn the Jews against the words and works of our Lord at his first advent as well as the ministry of the word since his ascension.

But no man can truly plead ignorance of God's presence much as the town council in our hypothetical situation could not plead such with regard to the approaching wildfire. Again, the apostle Paul reminds us, For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20). God says that by virtue of his creation, humanity can see his handiwork which has been affirmed by the variety and complexity of the things which are before them. As the

noted British scientist, Lord Kelvin, once opined, "Mathematics and dynamics fail us when we contemplate the earth, fitted for life but lifeless, and try to imagine the commencement of life upon it. This certainly did not take place by any action of chemistry, or electricity, or crystalline grouping of molecules under the influence of force, or by any possible kind of fortuitous concourse of atoms. We must pause, face to face with the mystery and miracle of creation of living creatures."

And yet, in the face of all that God has done in nature, the unregenerate block such from their thoughts, and why? Sir Arthur Keith explained: "Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it because the only alternative is special creation which is unthinkable." And Julian Huxley once said: "I suppose the reason we leaped at The Origin of Species was because the idea of God interfered with our sexual mores." Notice the key words in each quotation regarding rejection of godly understanding that it was, "unthinkable," and that it, "interfered."

Every sinner would rather not think about the existence of God especially when he or she is living in disobedience to his expressed word and commandment. Does the adulterer contemplate God's wrath while in the act of adultery? Does the murderer remember the commandment of God, Thou shalt do no murder? Does the burglar, the robber, the thief as well as the greedy in the politics, gaming, and business dwell on, Thou shalt not steal? But to a person, they know that what they are doing is wrong.

It never ceases to amaze me the lengths to which the unregenerate will go in their denial of the one true and living God. They will embrace every false notion of God, and bow before every image or idol that comes along. And on account of such behavior God will darken their hearts (Romans 1:21-23). Satan desires worship from mankind. Over the ages, he has sought to redirect to himself all the worship and glory which mankind was supposed to render to the Godhead. St. Luke's gospel account of the temptation of our Lord in the wilderness records Satan's testimony: All this power [speaking of the kingdoms of the world] will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore, wilt worship me, all shall be thine (4:6). St. Paul also confirms the same when identified the forces behind idolatry: What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God... (I Corinthians 10:19, 20a). The First and Second Commandments of the Law state, I am the LORD thy God... Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them... (Exodus 20:2-6).

And humanity's situation has not changed from the time of the apostles. Mass man, or the bulk of unregenerate humanity, worships all sorts of things. You name it, and it can become an idol given a certain mindset on the part of the worshipper. But when human beings fall into idolatry, God takes away his hand and the evil one comes to infuse his wicked nature into those who have fallen under his spell. And wickedness knows no limits. God has long ago established boundaries regarding the relations between men and women (see portions of Leviticus 18-21). So, when men and women choose to act in ways that are beyond God's laws for life—whoremongering, inordinate desires of the flesh, idolatry, etc.—they are, in essence, replacing the will of God with their own, and in so doing they will suffer God's wrath. They cannot set aside their sins or cleanse themselves through self-deification, that is, to assume that they have the power to create their own rules for life that are bidding upon the Universe, even the very words of God

himself. They willfully have forgotten that only through a heart-felt confession to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ can their sins be forgiven and forever removed.

It is vitally important that Christ's ministers teach the whole counsel of God to their congregations, as the apostle Paul proclaimed, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith (Romans 1:16-17). Unfortunately, a growing number of preachers will not mention the judgmental aspects of God's word for fear of scaring off their church members. In that cause, they are content to preach the false gospel of "feel-goodism". This message appeals to the unregenerate who salve their souls with its appearance of Christ-likeness, all the while living in disobedience to the expressed will of God. They have been so deceived by the evil one, and so hardened against God's word written that they will stop their ears concerning his warnings regarding their particular lifestyle choices. Just as the town council from our hypothetical did not want to face the fact that there was a wildfire approaching; likewise, those who are so fondly attached to their sins do not want to hear about that fiery eternity which awaits them if they do not repent and turn unto to Christ.

I ask you to recall that moment when you came to Christ. You came to see your old life as God saw it: filthy, rotten, and depraved. You had to admit that each of you were slaves to the evil one. You had to face the fact that you were dead to God. But when you came to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour, everything changed. You were transformed. You were made whole in the eyes of God. You were born again of the Holy Ghost. You became citizens of God's coming kingdom and your names were inscribed in his Book of Life (Revelation 21:27). St. Paul tells us as much in his first epistle to the Corinthian church: Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (6:9-11). And in his epistle to the Romans we are comforted with the following, There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (8:1).

We Christians have been called to proclaim the "good news" of Jesus Christ to those who are as yet in their sins and trespasses, that they might come out from among the wicked and be made clean by the blood of Christ. We also have been called to remind those of our fellowship that a new life in Christ excludes a continued participation in wickedness. God has called us to make a new beginning— a fresh start— so if we have been born again, we will abstain from all appearances of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22). Only then can we avoid the wrath which is to come: that all-consuming fire of our righteous and holy God.

If you have not already done so, I appeal to you to ask our gracious God to forgive you of any unconfessed sins. Daily confession and prayer ought to be part of all your life, not just on Sundays or on Wednesday evenings. God is with you always and everywhere so include time for him in your day. Thanksgiving and lifting up the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is always good. And remember to, as the old hymn goes, "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessing see what God has done" because we have truly received a gift of inestimable value in Christ Jesus our

Saviour and it will protect us from the wrath to come.

Let us pray,

**F**ATHER, we thank you for your free grace; and so comfort and fill us with the Holy Ghost, that we might daily communicate the good news of salvation to others, that they too might also escape thy wrath to come; and this we beg in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

### *New Nametags*

We had no new nametags today.

### *After Church Hospitality*

Sadly, no after church snacks. The same story every week, is it not? The fact is that we are supposed to be on a low carb diet and there really aren't any low carb snacks that appeal to us. So, with no fatted dog nut in sight, we were out of luck! Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
10 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>
17 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>
24 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Palm Sunday</b>
31 March 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Easter Sunday</b>

*People in our Prayers* - <http://faithfulcenturionprayerteam.blogspot.com/>

### **Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.**

It is not that God knows not our needs, for He surely does. Yet, Jesus commanded us to ask God for those same needs. In addition to the obvious of asking God for help, offering thanksgiving and the like, prayer helps us focus our thoughts on how we might do God's work.

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

### **Who can be on the list? Do I have to be a member of the Church of the Faithful Centurion to be prayed for?**

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

### **What is the commitment from the prayer team?**

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at least once per day.

### **How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?**

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - [jack@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:dru@faithfulcenturion.org), or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

### **What should I ask for?**

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills and be mentioned by their first name, others want a specific outcome and / or have more of their personal information known to the team. Ask for what you want. It is your desire and need for prayer the team is attempting to meet. For typical examples, see the list below.

### **Updating the Team**

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

*Prayer List Notice – If you have someone on the prayer list and their needs have changed, please let us know. We'd like to update our prayers to reflect the need and most important to give thanks!*

### **Travel**

*Maffucci Family* is traveling to family that are having problems. Pray for their safe trip and resolution of the problems.

### **Loss of Home**

*Sarah* who lost her home and all the contents when her house caught fire and burned to the ground near the end of January 2013. Her beloved dog was taken in the fire. Please pray for Sarah as she has many decisions at this time and help her to know Jesus will be with her to help to make the "crooked road straight."

### **Move**

*Ryan Hopkins* has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2013. Please pray for God's guidance in his life as he works and studies. Help him to see where God would like him to go from here and how he should get there.

*The Thomas Family* is on a short tour assignment in Guam through August 2013. Please pray for the assignment to continue to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends. In particular pray that Kristyna and Mitchell will develop good friends and schoolmates there so as to further their development as both Christians and citizens. Things seem to be going well where the sun rises on the United States, so keep praying! Give thanks and ask for continued good developments.

### **Anniversary**

*Dru and Hap Arnold* celebrated their 26<sup>h</sup> anniversary 21 February 2013. It should be noted while Hap had more than enough notice, first Ground Hog Day and Dru's birthday (see below) on 2 February 2013, Valentine's Day 14 February 2013, and P&I Renewal Day on 20 February 2013, and numerous comments by him in the interim about the upcoming event, he still did not remember in the morning until prompted. For some reason, it is always the male who is responsible for



remembering.

### ***Birthday***

*Dru Arnold* celebrated her 58<sup>th</sup> birthday 2 February 2013. It should be noted while it was a pleasant day, when she went outside first thing in the morning, she did not see her shadow; thus there will not be six more weeks of winter.

### ***Departed***

*H. Eugene Risch*, of Clarkdale, Arizona, passed away recently, we were notified of his departure on 7 February 2013. A minister with the Anglican Episcopal Church, he had waged an ongoing battle with life-threatening illness over a period of, yet he never has allowed the pain and suffering to stop him from continually serving the Lord. He used the experience of his suffering to magnify the glory of God to all who would hear. He was a man gifted with a rare and extensive knowledge and love of Holy Scripture. His wife, who remains behind, is a lovely lady worthy of the title. Please join us in commending his soul to our Lord and praying for comfort and succor of his loved ones, in particular his dear wife.

*Richard Campbell* passed away early the morning of 5 February 2013, after a heart attack and relatively brief illness. The last of his generation, he leaves an awesome legacy of good. Please give thanks for Richard's time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for those he leaves behind.

*Ed Rasimus* made his last takeoff at 1045L 30 January 2013, after a really tough fight with cancer. Ed, who everyone called Raz, was a retired Air Force major and flew over 250 combat missions into North Vietnam in both the F-105 and F-4. More than that, Raz was a true patriot and gentleman. He will be missed by all who knew him. Please give thanks for his sacrifices on behalf of our country and pray for comfort for his family who remain behind, in particular his wife Carol.

### ***Nearing the end of their time here on earth***

*Julia* has cancer, which has spread through her body, further treatment seems impossible. She is preparing to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for her faith to build and the transition to be good. Pray also for those she leaves behind.

*Polly* is in hospice care with dementia and spinal stenosis. Please pray for her as she prepares to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for the faith of her family to build and the transition to be good.

### ***Homebound or Infirm***

*Lou* has aspiration pneumonia. Please pray for the infection to be knocked down and for her continued recovery.

*Frank* has been coping with various ailments from older age. He is in his 90s and it has been a difficult year. Pray he will find comfort in God, that those who provide care to him will pay attention to him, do their best and give him the love we all desire. Pray that the coming year will provide relief to him.

*Norma, Sara's mother* is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally, with both onset dementia and Alzheimer's. She is slowly drifting away, though she still recognizes Sara and prayer gives her a sense of peace. Please pray for both Sara and her mother to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders so they can deal with the many problems involved.

### *In need of a miracle or understanding of God's Plan*

*Becky* has fourth stage metastasized lung cancer and is not doing well with chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for *Becky* and her husband as they are together during this difficult time in their lives.

*Larry Howes* suffered a fairly severe stroke. 4 December 2012, doctors replaced a valve in a shunt that had been put in about two weeks ago, and *Larry* responded very well. He was able to go home. He is now back in Mass General hospital. Please pray for the medical team treating him to pay attention and do their very best; pray also for confidence in our Lord for *Larry* and his family. *Larry* needs a miracle, pray for one. Please.

*Colleen* has been battling pancreatic cancer over the last year and it has now spread to one of her lungs. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

*Christine* has cancer of the colon, which spread to her liver; she is receiving chemotherapy and is having difficulty eating. Please pray for the medical team treating her to pay attention and do their very best; pray also for confidence in our Lord for *Christine* and her family.

*Todd* and *Kenny* have both been fighting osteocarcinoma for over five years and have been told their time here on earth is nearing its end, absent a miracle from God. Both are ready to go home and leave the pain, but would like to stay. Please pray for them and their families.

*Colonel Bud Day's* cancer has returned. The outlook is not favorable. *Bud* has been an inspiration to all of us for years, this changes nothing. He is well at peace with our Lord and we all hope he stays with us for a while longer.

### *Treatment*

*Brian* has had lung problems for a while. Recent tests found small cell cancer in the upper lung and bronchial area. It appears not to have spread. *Brian* began radiation and chemotherapy on 26 December 2012; he made it thorough radiation, albeit with some swallowing problems. There is more chemotherapy ahead. Please pray that he will gain strength to allow treatment to continue and that he will tolerate the treatment. Please give thanks for the cancerous area shrinking and pray it will continue to dissipate. His breathing seems better, please join him in giving thanks for that and pray for no more breathing problems. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for *Brian* and his fiancé *Mel*, so he can rest and gain strength; pray for the medical team treating him that they pay close attention and do their very best; pray also that he can quit smoking.

### *Surgery*

*Jeff* will be having surgery on Monday 4 March 2013, at Vanderbilt Medical Center to remove his esophagus as the doctors feel this is the only remedy for pre-cancerous and cancerous cells in his esophagus and stomach. Please pray for him to rest well before the surgery, for the surgical team to pay attention and do their best and for a good result. Pray for *Jeff* and his family to keep their faith in God and let him carry their worries.

*Monica* is having a cataract removed. Pray she will put her trust in God and remain calm throughout this procedure.

*Rick* is recovering from hip replacement surgery in the middle of February 2013.

### *Thanksgiving and Continued Healing*

*Buzz Baron* had C5-6 surgery the morning of 3 March 2013, which went well. Please give thanks for the surgical team paying attention and doing their best and for a good result; pray also for a full and rapid recovery.

*Karen* had surgery the afternoon of 1 March 2013 to remove a spot on her lung; the surgery went well and the spot was benign. Please give thanks for the great result. Pray also for continued trust in God and peace of mind for Karen, as well as a rapid recovery.

*Dick's* left arm was amputated after treating for Merkel Cell carcinoma over a year. He is now believed to be cancer free and is waiting to be fitted with an artificial arm. Please join Dick and his family in giving thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his recovery as well as for their trust in God.

*Sasha* a young lady with a husband and two children had diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer whose cells were thought to have spread to her spine. After radiation and chemotherapy, which is continuing through the end of January 2013, she is regaining her stamina and does not have any detectable cancer activity. The tumors in her skin are gone and the large tumors in her breasts are gone. She and her family ask that you give thanks to our Father in heaven. She also gives thanks to all who have prayed for her.

*Traci* had surgery colon cancer on 27 December 2012. The surgery went very well and she appears to be cancer free. But, she had a pulmonary embolism and another clot in the artery to the spleen which will keep her in the hospital for at least several days. Traci is beginning to be weary of her medical situation. Please pray that she will not become despondent. Pray that she will open her heart to God's Grace that He might enter in to her heart and strengthen her.

*Bob Smouse* had shoulder surgery on 28 November 2012. He would appreciate your thanksgiving prayers. While the surgery apparently went well, he is still in pain and would also appreciate prayers for continued healing and the pain to subside. He promises to work very hard on recovery therapy.

*Tore*, of Oslo, Norway recently had a kidney transplant. Unfortunately his body rejected the kidney, infection had set in. Without God's healing touch he would soon die. According to his wife Inga, shortly after the prayer request, he began a prompt recovery and is now home. Tore and Inga give thanks for God's Grace and your prayer.

*Carol Stone*, the sweet wife of Mike Stone, seems to have recovered far better than expected from a severe brain bleed. She thinks she can walk, etc., even though she cannot. She has improved and is nearly able to stand up by herself; this makes it almost certain that she will have another fall. Presently she can stand and walk a little with a great deal of assistance. Hopefully this means she will ultimately be able to walk, at least with the aid of a walker or cane. What's holding her back at the moment is her cognitive deficits and they are trying to find a place to get her more therapy

Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Mike, guidance for the medical team treating Carol and strength for Carol as well as faith and trust. No one can ever understand the why of these things here on earth. Sara who passed this request on asks that you pray in both faith and hope.

*Muriel Pappin* broke her hip in a fall and had surgery on 21 November 2012. Muriel was home, but has had complications and went back in the hospital. She is now back home. Please give thanks for her return home and pray for her continued recovery.

### *Healing*

*David* had a heart attack mid February 2013, during which his heart stopped for about 60 seconds. After several days in the hospital and a stent, he is now home. Please give thanks for his survival and pray for his complete recovery. Please pray also that he and his family might put their worries on our Lord's back so he can work hard towards recovery.

*Nora* had a stroke mid February 2013. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Nora. Please pray also that she and her family might put their worries on our Lord's back so she can work hard towards recovery.

*Linda* has been hospitalized for several days with a gastrointestinal problem. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Linda.

*James* had surgery the afternoon of 10 February 2012, to remove two small, but cancerous tumors, from his intestines. On 14 January 2013, James was found to have bladder cancer. On 28 January 2013, he underwent surgery. The doctor felt she got all of the tumor. They still are waiting on the results of the tissue samples she removed. The result of the report will decide the treatment options. Please pray that the cancer was confined to the tumor alone and that it has not invaded the bladder walls. James is a minister with the AOC in Savannah, Georgia. He made it through the first hurdle, he and his family ask your prayers for this second trial. Please pray for the medical team treating him to do their very best and pay attention, pray for the treatment to go well and result in remission. Pray that James and his family will be able to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders during this trying time.

*Richard* an elderly gentleman has severe pneumonia. Please pray for the medical team treating him to do their very best and pay attention, pray for the treatment to go well and result in recovery.

*Dester* is suffering from unknown skin and diseases. Please guide the medical team treating him to find out what the problem is and cure it. Pray also for Dester to trust in the Lord.

*Lee* has Arterial Fibrillation; the medical people are not sure how to help her. Please pray for guidance for the team treating her and for Lee and her family to make the right decisions regarding treatment..

*Nell* recently adopted two children and has just been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

*Sarah* is recovering from a stroke, but fell and broke bones. Please pray for her peace of mind and rapid and full recovery. Pray for trust in God for her and her family.

*Inez'* blood pressure is back down, but she needs surgery for a torn leg muscle. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating her, as well as peace of mind and trust in God for her and her family.

*Kathleen* has spent the last two weeks in the hospital. She has been diagnosed with

colitis, shingles and possibly colon cancer. Pray she will be comfortable and begin to heal.

*Rachel* has Mitochondrial Myopathy. This is a hereditary disease of the muscles and they do not have a cure for it. Part of her pain is her family does not believe she is indeed ill, as she appears to be just fine. Please pray her family will learn the truth and be supportive of her; pray also the medical people treating her will find the right measures to minimize the disease. Most particularly pray for Rachel's trust in God.

*Donald* went into ICU the night of 22 December 2012, for unknown reasons.

*Mrs. Tucker* has had recent surgery as a result of bleeding on the brain. Please pray for trust in God and a full and rapid recovery.

*Jesse* a 27 year old man from Nebraska has had emergency brain surgery for bleeding in the brain. Please pray for trust in God and a full and rapid recovery.

*Zoie* a little 10 year old girl is having problems with one of her kidneys. Please pray that she will be comfortable soon.

*Nicolas* is in the hospital with serious symptoms of a heart disorder. Please pray for peace of mind for him and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

*Mrs. Baek* an elderly women fell and injured her spine. Doctors cannot repair the spinal injury due to her age. She fell again the morning of 12 December 2012, breaking her collar bone which is also untreatable. Mrs. Baek is in severe pain and will appreciate your prayers.

*Gil Garcia* is hospitalized with a slow healing skin injury at the Long Beach Veteran's Spinal Cord Injury Center. Please give thanks for Gil's incredible attitude, as well that of his wife Mary and their family. Pray for the rapid healing of the skin injury so Gil can go home soon.

*Juanita* is a young girl who was in a coma because of a blood disease. She has not come out and is gaining strength. They are awaiting results from blood samples. Her family thanks you for your prayers and asks that you continue.

*Barbara* had a accident while cooking and the pressure cooker blew up in her face, causing second and third degree burns over her face and upper body. Because of this she has incurred kidney problems and may need a transplant.

*George* had foot surgery. Please give thanks for the surgery and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

*Nellie* is in the emergency room of a hospital in a great deal of pain. Please pray for peace of mind for her and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

*Lauralee Meade* underwent a lumpectomy on Friday after Thanksgiving. A further anomaly has been discovered and she had additional preventative radiation treatment. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Lauralee will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

*Kevin Gerhart* discovered cancer on his neck. He underwent radiation and chemotherapy. Please pray for the medical team treating Kevin that they might

pay attention, do their very best and find the source; that the treatment might be successful and he might live a long and healthy life to His honor and glory. Pray also for trust in God and peace of mind for Kevin, his wife and family.

*Bill, Sara's husband*, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011, to remove a tumor. Bill is doing better keeping the doctor's instructions, for which we are all grateful, including taking chemotherapy once a day for two more years. He has radically decreased the consumption of alcohol and eating at least mostly properly. Please pray for help for him to continue do all this. Please pray also that Bill might turn his heart outward to help those around him, as well as live a long and healthy life to the honor and glory of God. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

*Kay Denton* (Mrs. Kay) hip has deteriorated to the point walking is a slow and painful process, but she manages. Please pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude.

*Steve Sundberg* had a heart attack after Easter 2011. After some time, the medical team treating him decided he was not a candidate for stents and a five-way heart bypass was performed the week of 6 June 2011. Please pray for his complete recovery and for his three children and family who are very worried about him, pray also for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

*Matt Alcantara*, age 15, has Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), a very rare and often lethal form of cancer with limited treatment options. This is a disease that is about 90 percent fatal in a couple of years. He has no hip joint on one side, but he walks and swims! Courage? Guts? You bet! Matt and his mom just came back from Houston at the Cancer Center for what was hoped to be a routine every four month bone scan. The scans were done on schedule, but a couple of new spots showed up. After Matt's San Diego doctors conferred with the Houston doctors to figure out what these spots mean, it turned out they are new and old injuries with no bad meaning. In effect they are CLEAN SCANS. Matt and his family ask you to give thanks for the super results. Please also give thanks for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

*Judith Clingwall*, is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Judith's condition has worsened recently. She is no longer able to stand, in fact she has a lot of trouble sitting upright. Judith is depressed and wants to go home to watch her birds, which given everything seems unlikely at present. Please pray for her to take an active part in her own life, for her strength, peace of mind, trust in God and remission of the disease so she might return home to her family. Pray also for strength for her husband Martin as he deals with all the problems and stress of Judith's situation.

*Becky Madden* is paralyzed from the neck down as the result of a tragic shooting accident. Her husband is doing his best to take care of her; it is hard and he is learning the best he can. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for her husband.

*Vince (age 15)*, reoccurrence of Osteosarcoma, recent testing found a nickel sized tumor in his lungs. The doctors are consulting with a specialist in Houston. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and for peace of mind for Vince and his family.

*Obra Gray* continues to take day by day. Please continue to keep Obra in your prayers, and give him the strength of knowing the Lord is with him and will never forsake him. Obra needs security of what lies ahead of him, and only the Lord can grant the solace to answer his prayer.

### **Business**

*Mark's* business is in difficulty. He works in a shrinking field, of which he is one of the country's true masters, but there is little work available. He asks that you pray that he can find a way to survive in his industry, which he loves and needs his talents. Pray he can find new sources of business and new ways of doing things, perhaps someone to partner with to better use his talents. Pray also for those who work for and with him that they might do their best to help.

### **Employment**

*Lori* is considering a potential change in her employment. Please pray for God's guidance in considering all aspect of her potential work.

*Rodriguez Family* are looking for work. It seems many obstacles have been put in their way of finding employment. Please pray they will find employment with a firm that will be able to use their considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

*Sarah* is concerned about the future with her company. She would appreciate prayers for her continued employment and that her firm might find more and better ways to use her considerable skills.

### **Financial Guidance and Healing**

*David and Lorna* are having financial problems. They are trying to find a smaller home which may be more affordable. *Lorna* has had an ongoing battle with brain cancer, her trips back and forth to the hospital have drained their finances to the point they sometimes struggle to have enough food in the house. Please pray for Lorna's healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

### **Guidance**

*Christy* just lost her sister in an automobile accident; this follows closely the loss of two family. Please pray she can let our Lord Jesus Christ carry all her sorry, worry and care at this extremely difficult and stressful time.

*Dr. Elizabeth Raj* is teaching a biblical approach to the psychological problems facing many in our society today. She is battling against the growing influence of worldly psychology adopted by the churches themselves. Elizabeth constantly stresses answers are found between the covers of that precious Book, the Holy Bible. Please pray for encouragement, strength, fortitude and courage for her.

*Daniel and Danielle* are experiencing family strife as a result of custodial issues with a daughter. Please pray they and those they strive with might look to the child's best interests in their time of difficulty and disagreement; to work for her best interests and not use her as a weapon amongst themselves.

*Abigail* is a teenager who has behavior problems. She feels she is in an area of mental darkness. Please pray that she might look to God for help and not within herself.

*Sara* asks that you pray for guidance for her as she deals with the stresses of her family and life. Pray that she can separate those things which she can affect from those things which she cannot and give her grace to accept that she cannot do everything and can only change those things within her control. She asks for God's help to grow her business while keeping up with the needs of her mother and husband and healing her own problems.

*Jacquie* to open her heart to God and accept His Love and Grace.

*Hap* and *Ryan* both ask you to pray they might be able to trust God will help them make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things they can change, accept those things they cannot change, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that they will open their hearts to the Holy Ghost.

### ***New Congregations***

New AOC congregations have been established in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands. This is in the Eastern end of the Islands and a ways away from the established congregations in these islands. Please pray for them as they bring souls to Christ as they establish His Church.

### ***Guidance for Ministers***

*Rev LTC Al Ryan* has been appointed Deacon-In-Charge of the mission parish of St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, Anglican Church in America (ACA) parish in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. It is a small but growing mission, which has been plagued by clergy change. Al, the diocesan pilot, has been appointed for one year, during which time he is to help them identify what their needs are for a vicar. He has done this before and asks you to pray for God's help one more time; not only for himself, but for the parish.

### ***Armed Forces & Contractors***

Airman Donny Patton (Bagram AB, Afghanistan), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Guam)

### ***Persecuted***

Around the world, Christians are under attack, not only in the Muslim world, but from Hindus and others in India. Also, they are under continual attack in the name of "Separation of Church and State" in the western world, as it becomes actively atheist or pro-devil buddy. Please pray for God's guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

### ***Various Special Requests***

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don't know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first,



so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

### *Remembrance of those who have gone before us*

*Kenneth Wayne Ogles* was killed in action on 16 February 1967, in the Ia Drang Valley, in the Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam, with the First Platoon of C Company, the First Battalion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, First Cavalry Division at the age of 19. Kenneth joined the National Guard at age 17 and immediately transferred to the active Army's First Cavalry Division. He wanted to make a difference, to do his duty to God and Country and protect the innocent people of South Vietnam. He gave all that we might be free. Please join us in remembering his service and sacrifice, as well as the hurt that it cost the entire Ogles family, the sacrifice and pain is no less 46 years later. Remember Kenneth the next time someone wants you to give a little freedom for the promise of safety or comfort.



### *Question that only you can ask*

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

### *I'd like to get a different point across or announce something*

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to Hap (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org).

### *Epistleers*

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
10 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday in Lent
17 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Fifth Sunday in Lent
24 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Palm Sunday
31 March 2013	Dru Arnold – Easter Sunday

### *The near future, as well as Next Sunday*

10 March 2013 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

17 March 2013 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

24 March 2013 – Palm Sunday – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

31 March 2013 – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion – Mite Box Collection – What will we have? Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

7 April 2013 – First Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

14 April 2013 – Second Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

21 April 2013 – Third Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

28 April 2013 – Fourth Sunday After Easter – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

